

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REGIONAL STUDY CENTERS FUNDING ALLOCATION REQUEST FOR 2013-2014**

**Actions Requested:** (1) Consider approval of the proposed 2013-2014 funding allocations for the Regional Study Centers: \$202,734 for the Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center (Council Bluffs); \$76,114 for the Northwest Iowa Regents Resource Center (Sioux City); and \$5,000 for the Quad Cities Graduate Center (Quad Cities). (2) Direct the Board Office to notify, in writing, the General Assembly and the Legislative Services Agency of funds allocated to the centers as specified in HF 304, Sec. 8.

**Executive Summary:** The proposed funding allocations, developed by the State Extension, Continuing, and Distance Education Council (SECDEC), for 2013-2014 describe the anticipated benefits to be derived at the Regional Study Centers. The 2013-2014 funding allocations for the Regional Study Centers have been reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and are recommended for approval.

**Background:** The 2013 General Assembly appropriated a total of \$283,848 to the three regional study centers. Furthermore, HF 304 Sec. 8, authorized the Board of Regents “to transfer moneys appropriated to the study centers if the Board notifies, in writing, the General Assembly and the Legislative Services Agency of the amount, the date, and the purpose of the transfer.”

The **Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center (SWIRRC)**, located on the campus of Iowa Western Community College (IWCC), is part of the Regent Enterprise and includes the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, and the University of Northern Iowa. The Center was formerly located on the Iowa School for the Deaf campus but re-located to rented space on the campus of IWCC in August 2011.

- ⇒ The center provides written materials about the programs although the same information is available online through the universities’ websites. The majority of offerings by the respective universities are provided online.
- ⇒ A mathematics instructor has been hired to offer mathematics courses requested by the community colleges. The instructor will also serve as a coordinator for the Center to work with the community colleges and the region to respond to identified educational needs.
- ⇒ SWIRCC supports and enhances the outreach efforts of the Regent universities; there are no other universities (including out-of-state institutions) in the consortium. It supports programming efforts not only at the graduate level, but also at the undergraduate level.
- ⇒ The Center serves as a focal point for programming, offers personal assistance to prospective students, proctors examinations, and coordinates promotional efforts for the three universities in partnership with IWCC and Southwestern Iowa Community College.
- ⇒ Funding for the center is provided by the Iowa General Assembly.
- ⇒ Student support services, such as enrollment and academic advising, are provided directly by the respective Regent university.

The **Northwest Iowa Regents Resource Center (NWIRRC)**, which will be located on the campus of the Western Iowa Technical Community College (WITCC), was created by the 2013 legislature (HF 604) to serve the educational needs of students in northwest Iowa. Creation of the Center resulted from the requests and support of community leaders in Sioux City. The Center is part of the Regent Enterprise and includes the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, and the University of Northern Iowa.

- ⇒ The center will provide materials prepared by each institution about their certificate, baccalaureate, master's, doctoral, and non-credit offerings; the same information is available online on the universities' websites.
- ⇒ NWIRRC will support and enhance the outreach efforts of the Regent universities. It will support programming efforts not only at the graduate level, but also at the undergraduate level.
- ⇒ The Center will serve as a focal point for programming, offer personal assistance to prospective students, proctor examinations, and coordinate promotional efforts for the three universities in partnership with WITCC and Northwest Iowa Community College.
- ⇒ Funding for the center is provided by the Iowa General Assembly.
- ⇒ Student support services, such as enrollment and academic advising, will be provided directly by the respective university.
- ⇒ An instructor/coordinator will be hired to offer specific courses requested by the community colleges and to work with the colleges and the region to respond to identified educational needs.

The **Quad Cities Graduate Center**, located on the campus of Western Illinois University – Quad Cities in Moline, Illinois with an office in Davenport, is a consortium of universities in Illinois (Illinois State University, Northern Illinois University, Saint Xavier University, University of Illinois, and Western Illinois University-Quad Cities) and Iowa (Drake University, Iowa State University, St. Ambrose University, University of Iowa, and University of Northern Iowa).

- ⇒ The center provides materials prepared by each institution regarding their certificate, master's, doctoral, and non-credit offerings; the same information is available online on the universities' websites.
- ⇒ There are no classes offered at the center. The majority of offerings by the respective universities are provided online or on the institutions' campuses (e.g., St. Ambrose University). A few programs, such as the University of Iowa's Master of Social Work Program, are offered in a face-to-face or blended format at a location arranged by the university.
- ⇒ Funding for the center is provided by the Illinois General Assembly and the Iowa General Assembly. Illinois funding increased from \$65,000 in 2011-2012 (+29.1%) to \$83,900 in 2012-2013. Iowa funding decreased from \$129,776 (-73.4%) in 2011-2012 to \$34,513 in 2012-2013.
- ⇒ Student support services, such as enrollment and academic advising, are provided directly by the respective university.

### PROPOSED 2013-2014 REGIONAL STUDY CENTERS FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

The State Extension, Continuing, and Distance Education Council (SECDEC), in collaboration with the Council of Provosts, proposes the following allocation of funds to the Regional Study Centers in 2013-2014:

#### ◆ Southwest Iowa Regents Resource Center.

- ⇒ SECDEC proposes an allocation of \$202,734 to the Center in 2013-2014. This is an increase of \$20,000 (+10.9%) from the prior year.
- ⇒ The objective of the relocation of the Center to the IWCC campus in 2011 was to enhance the Regent universities' presence in the region, build a stronger connection with the community colleges, and increase the connection with prospective students interested in either distance or residential programs.
- ⇒ The increase in funding will be used to hire an instructor/coordinator with both teaching and oversight responsibilities. The instructor/coordinator will meet the requirements of an adjunct faculty member and will be appointed by an academic department at one of the Regent universities. The courses taught by this individual will be accepted at any of the three Regent universities.
- ⇒ Historically, SWIRRC has focused on serving the population in the IWCC district. However, the Southwest Iowa Community College District has agreed to participate in the new collaboration. The partner community college districts have been invited to co-sponsor the faculty position and identify teaching needs.
- ⇒ The academic area that will be selected jointly by the community colleges and the Regent universities will address the instructional needs of community college students, especially in the STEM fields.

#### ◆ Northwest Iowa Regents Resource Center.

- ⇒ SECDEC proposes an allocation of \$76,114 to the Center for 2013-2014.
- ⇒ The objective of locating the Center on the WITCC campus is to enhance the Regent universities' presence in the region, build a stronger connection with the community colleges, and increase the connection with prospective students interested in either distance or residential programs.
- ⇒ The funding will be used to hire an instructor/coordinator with both teaching and oversight responsibilities. The instructor/coordinator will meet the requirements of an adjunct faculty member and will be appointed by an academic department at one of the Regent universities. The courses taught by this individual will be accepted at any of the three Regent universities.
- ⇒ One of the objectives of the new Center is to serve not only the population in the WITCC district, but also the population in the Northwest Iowa Community College district. The partner community college districts will be invited to co-sponsor the faculty position and identify teaching needs.
- ⇒ The academic area that will be selected jointly by the community colleges and the Regent universities will address the instructional needs of community college students, especially in the STEM fields.

◇ **Quad Cities Graduate Center.**

- ⇒ SECDEC proposes an allocation of \$5,000 to the Center for 2013-2014. This is a reduction of \$29,513 (-85.5%) from the prior year. The new funding is consistent with the strategic priorities identified by SECDEC, the level of direct services provided to Regent university students, and the new direction that the Center has proposed for its region. The bulk of the Center's budget is allocated to administrative overhead.
- ⇒ Technology and methodologies used to deliver and market distance education courses and programs have significantly changed in the last decade. The majority of programs offered by the three Regent universities rely on on-line delivery capabilities. The two on-site graduate programs in the Quad Cities area are well established and rely on web and program specific marketing strategies. Both the Master of Social Work Program and the Master of Business Administration Program are site-based. The MBA program is housed at the Palmer College of Chiropractic. The University of Iowa is currently evaluating space on the campus of Eastern Iowa Community College for the Master of Social Work Program. It had been located on the Western Illinois University campus but space is no longer available on that campus.
- ⇒ The value added by the Center is limited because the services it provides to the universities is duplicative of services already provided by the universities.